



Brownfields 2009 Grant Fact Sheet

New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Newark, NJ

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (NJISJ) was selected to receive a job training grant. NJISJ seeks to expand economic opportunities for low-income and minority residents of Newark (population 282,000), which is located five miles west of New York



Job Training Grant

\$200,000

EPA has selected the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (NJISJ) for a job training grant. NJISJ plans to train 87 students, place at least 53 graduates in environmental technician jobs, and track students for one year. The training program will consist of four, 100-hour training cycles that include coursework in HAZWOPER, lead abatement, asbestos removal, OSHA health and safety, and brownfields issues. A minimum of three certifications will be offered. The primary trainer will be Essex County College. Students will be recruited from unemployed and underemployed city residents, with priority given to returning citizens. NJISJ will work with the Workforce Investment Board and Essex County Building Trades Council to place graduates in environmental jobs.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

Schenine Mitchell, EPA Region 2

212-637-3283

<http://www.epa.gov/region02/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: New Jersey Institute for

Social Justice

973-624-9400, ext. 25

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

City. At one time, Newark was New Jersey's most important industrial city and is still home to one of the largest ports in the nation. As the city's industrial legacy declined and businesses moved or closed, Newark was left with potentially valuable properties

that are vacant and underused. An estimated 700 acres of brownfields are scattered throughout the city. Newark's poverty rate exceeds 24 percent, and the unemployment rate of 12 percent is nearly double the state average. Nearly 78 percent of Newark residents are minorities. Despite the downturn in the economy, the city projects a growing need for environmental workers and has recently revamped its brownfields cleanup and waterfront redevelopment efforts.